

Lesson
5**Reflexive and Intensive Pronouns***Teaching*

Pronouns that end in *-self* or *-selves* are either **reflexive** or **intensive** pronouns.

Reflexive and Intensive Pronouns

myself	yourself	herself, himself, itself
ourselves	yourselves	themselves

A **reflexive pronoun** refers to the subject and directs the action of the verb back to the subject. Reflexive pronouns are necessary to the meaning of a sentence. Without them the sentence doesn't make sense.

Explorers cannot stop themselves from taking chances. (*Themselves* refers to *explorers*.)

An **intensive pronoun** emphasizes the noun or pronoun within the same sentence. Intensive pronouns are not necessary to the meaning of the sentence.

The queen herself asked Ponce de León to find the fountain of youth. (*Herself* refers to *the queen*.)

Remember that *hisself* and *theirselves* are not real words. Never use them. Use *himself* and *themselves* instead.

A. Identifying Reflexive and Intensive Pronouns

Underline all the reflexive and intensive pronouns in the following sentences.

1. Juan Ponce de León had heard tales of a fountain of youth and wanted to find it for himself.
2. The fountain of youth itself was said to be located on an island called Bimini in the Bahamas.
3. It is possible that the Native Americans themselves believed that the fountain of youth existed.
4. Supposedly, if you drank the fountain water, you would find yourself restored to youth.
5. Do you yourself believe that a fountain of youth exists somewhere?

B. Using Reflexive and Intensive Pronouns

Underline the correct pronoun to complete each sentence.

1. Although Ferdinand Magellan (him, himself) did not live to complete the journey, he led the first expedition to sail around the world.
2. Unbelievably, only 18 crewmen out of the 250 who began the difficult trip were able to bring (theirselves, themselves) back home safely.
3. On an island in the Pacific, the crew found (themselves, them) in a bloody war.
4. In fact, Magellan (hisself, himself) was killed in a battle on the island.
5. Do you ever ask (you, yourself) whether you could have been an explorer?

Reflexive and Intensive Pronouns**More Practice****A. Recognizing Reflexive and Intensive Pronouns**

Underline the reflexive or intensive pronoun in each sentence. On the line, write **R** if the pronoun is reflexive and **I** if it is intensive.

1. Have you yourself ever traveled to Africa? _____
2. Mary Henrietta Kingsley made three journeys to West Africa all by herself, becoming the first European to visit some parts of Africa. _____
3. Many people considered it improper for a woman to travel alone, and Kingsley was forced to explain herself over and over again. _____
4. On a journey like this one, you can find yourself in many difficult situations. _____
5. Travelers themselves must think of ways to survive. _____
6. Africans themselves could not quite understand this outspoken young woman. _____
7. Kingsley put herself in danger again when she tended wounded soldiers during the Boer War. _____
8. There, this adventurer put aside her own dreams of travel and helped soldiers who could not help themselves. _____

B. Choosing Reflexive and Intensive Pronouns

Fill in the blanks in the following sentences with appropriate reflexive or intensive pronouns. On the line to the right, write **R** for reflexive or **I** for intensive.

1. The doctor _____ came out to greet her patients. _____
2. Steve accompanies _____ on the guitar. _____
3. Terry, repeat to _____ those words of encouragement. _____
4. The movie _____ was boring, but the cartoon was hilarious. _____
5. We churned butter _____ when we lived on the farm. _____
6. Carol taught _____ how to play the piano. _____

**Lesson
5****Reflexive and Intensive Pronouns*****Application*****A. Proofreading**

Proofread the following story to make sure that reflexive and intensive pronouns have been used correctly. When you find a pronoun used incorrectly, cross it out. Then insert this proofreading symbol ↗ and write the correct pronoun above it.

Have you ever heard of Marco Polo? He hisself, along with his father and uncle, was one of the first Europeans to travel into China. His father and uncle were theirselves great travelers. These two Venetian merchants had traveled from Italy all the way to China. They brought home fascinating stories about foreign customs and treasures. The next time they went, they brought young Marco with them. The Mongol ruler of China hisself, Kublai Kahn, became their host. Marco spent 17 years traveling around China by himself. Later, Marco entertained the khan by telling stories about what he had seen and done. His travel accounts were recorded in a journal, although it is possible he didn't write it hisself. Reading Marco Polo's journal theirselves, Europeans got an exciting glimpse into a different world. Today, when we see the world becoming closer and more connected, we should remind us that at one time, few people traveled far from their homes.

B. Using Reflexive and Intensive Pronouns in Writing

Everyone has lost an important item at one time or another. Tell about a time when you or someone you know searched high and low for something lost. Use at least four reflexive or intensive pronouns in your story.
